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LETTER DATED 2 AUGUST 1969 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM  
OF EL SALVADOR ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to confirm the text of the cable dated 31 July 1969 addressed to you by Dr. Guillermo Paz Larín, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, which reads as follows:

"San Salvador, 31 July 1969, His Excellency U Thant, Secretary-General of the United Nations, New York, N.Y. -- 841. I have today sent to Messrs. Gabino, Fraga and Luis Reque, respectively Chairman and Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, a radiotelegraph message which reads: 'I have the honour to acknowledge your cable of today's date, in which you request my Government to supply the Commission with information in connexion with the complaint by the Government of Honduras that my Government has violated the human rights of Honduran civilians in the Honduran towns occupied by the Salvadorian army, both before and after the cease-fire, and has thereby provoked terror among the inhabitants of towns, villages and hamlets near the localities occupied by Salvadorian troops. -- My Government emphatically rejects the Honduran complaint, which is merely another lie and false accusation the Government of Honduras has added to all those made previously, for the sole purpose of prejudicing the good name and standing of El Salvador in the international community, knowing that the accusation is completely groundless. It was established in the Resolution at the Meeting of Consultation of the Organization of American States, held on 30 July that El Salvador is not an aggressor and, therefore, the military acts carried out by the Salvadorian army in invading and occupying Honduran territory are not illegal, but acts deriving from the inherent right of self-defence against the various acts of aggression committed by the Government of Honduras. A civilian who abandons his place of residence as a result of a military act by an enemy army, which occupies territory near the locality in which he has his residence, cannot claim that his flight constitutes an expulsion from that locality or a violation of human rights; on the contrary, the best protection of the lives and property of civilians is to ensure their evacuation from localities in which a military action may take place. Nor does blood spilt as a result of an external war, in conformity with the rules of war, constitute a violation of human rights, except in the case of aggression or an unjust war. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights cannot contradict the resolutions of the Meeting of Consultation after rejecting the Honduran petition that El Salvador should be declared an aggressor. My Government is wholly

convinced that the military and civilian observers appointed by the OAS Organ of Consultation to verify the cease-fire on Honduran territory are, because of the accuracy of the facts, the best corroboration that El Salvador has not violated human rights and that the Honduran accusation has no justification. Accordingly, my Government ventures to suggest that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights should request the Organ of Consultation or, if appropriate, the Council of the organization, to send it true copies of the reports of the military and civilian observers referred to above, which my Government hopes have already been issued. -- At all events, my Government will promptly send the Commission the proof of its innocence and if such proof cannot be made ready for the special meeting on 5 August next, my Government respectfully requests that it be granted a new hearing in a further special meeting so as to submit the above-mentioned proof and also the documentation required to show that paragraphs 3 and 4 of section B of the conclusions of the preliminary report of the Inter-American Sub-Commission on Human Rights of 14 July 1969 are not true to the facts and, therefore, should be rectified. -- Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration. Guillermo Paz Larín, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs of El Salvador.'"

I should be grateful if you would have this communication circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Felipe VEGA-GOMEZ  
Charge d'Affaires ad interim of El Salvado

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